**ACQUITTAL REPORT No.** 

# **Tents for Impoverished Tibetan Households**

# Final Report to the Australian Embassy-Beijing

Sixty Tents for Lanyid ལན་ལིད། (Lianyi 联谊) Tibetan Village

Gommo 河南河 (Gongbu 贡波) Township, Sde rong 敦美 (Derong 得荣) County,
Ganzi Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Sichuan Province

PR China

from

Sonan Jetsun (Bsod nams rgyal mtshan བསོད་ནམས་རྱུལ་མཚན། 斯郎杰村; Curtis)

# Final Activity Report

**Project Name:** Tents for 60 Impoverished Tibetan Households

(1) Project Location: Lianyi Tibetan Village, Gongbu Township, Derong County, Ganzi Tibetan

Autonomous Prefecture, Sichuan Province

(2) Project Donor: Australia Embassy in Beijing

(3) Applicant: Sonan Jetsun

(4) Executing organization: Sanchuan Development Association (http://www.sanchuan.asia)

(5) Supervisor: Mr. Zhu Yongzhong 朱永忠

(6) Local Contribution: 1,800RMB (30RMB per recipient family)

### (8) Aims:

- To protect the local forest. Locals spend 4 months of each year herding on the top of mountains and three months at the middle of the mountains. They need shelters and thus build such from wood. Each family needs two wood shelters and each shelter requires cutting about 100 trees. These shelters are so rotted after 4-5 years, another 100 trees need to be cut.
- To increase local people's income. Selling mushroom is a main income source. Mushrooms depend on the forests, which are being decimated, in part, because of herding shelter construction. The tents will slow forest loss, thus preserving a supply of mushrooms for villagers.
- To save work time. Nearly a month is required to construct a herding shelter and, in addition, yearly repairs demand more time.
- Provide an easily transportable shelter. Two wood herding shelters will not be needed (per family), thus saving 200 trees per family (about 40 trees per year per family will not be cut).
- (9) **Project site:** Lianyi Tibetan Village, Gongbu Township, Derong County, Ganzi Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Sichuan Province, PR China.

(10) Executing organs: Lianyi Tibetan Village and Sonam Jetsun

(11) Project Period: March -May 2010

(12) Responsible People: Sonan Jetsun

(13) Australian Embassy Contribution: 60,000RMB

# **Project Activities**

### 1. Activities planned in the framework of the project:

- purchase tents in Xining City
- meet with members of target community and select 60 recipient families
- collect 30RMb per recipient family
- visit each recipient household to give tents
- take photographs to document the project

After giving these tents to the sixty poorest families in Lianyi Village, I planned visit every family every year for three times to make sure they are using these Tents. In that way, I could find how this project helped the local people.

### 2. Activities realized in the framework of the project:

- 16 March 2010--payment received
- 25 March--tents purchased in Xining City, Qinghai Province from the Loldg'a Tent Company.
- 28 March--transported the tents to the community.
- 5 April--the tents reached Lianyi Village.
- 8 April--Nima (village leader) and I had met with Lianyi villagers. Consensus was reached on the 60 families who most needed tents. I collected 30RMB per recipient family.
- 10 April--Nima and I visited every recipient family and gave them the tents. I taught them how to place, use, and care for the tents.
- 26 April-1May--returned to Xining City.
- 2 March--began work on the final report.
- 8 May--completed the final report.

# **The Community**

### **Location:**

Lianyi Village is located 200 km southwest of Derong County Town, 550 km from Kangding City, the capital of Ganzi Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, and 1,040 km from Chengdu City, the capital of Sichuan Province.

### **Population:**

Lianyi Village has 80 households (560 Tibetans). Each family has an average of seven members, representing three generations. Most villagers are under the age of 55.

### **Income:**

Lianyi Village is predominately a community of Tibetan farmers. In 2002, due to the threat of deforestation and increased environmental degradation in the region, the local government provided a small annual stipend to families of about 150 RMB per mu; the average family in Lianyi Village owns around 5 mu and thus receives approximately 750RMB in cash annually from the local government, which is used on household expenses, including food, clothing, school costs, and medical expenses. During summer and fall, many villagers go to the county town to earn money from various part-time jobs in non-agricultural enterprises to supplement the government stipend. Only about 4 village residents have found permanent, government jobs in the local county town.

In Lianyi Village, certain families tend yaks, sheep, goats, horses, pigs, and cows. They use animal products for their own subsistence or sell a portion of those products (butter, wool, quilts made of animal hair, dried cheese, yak hair) for profit. Families who own only a small number of livestock primarily consume animal products on a subsistence basis.

### **Education:**

Approximately 95% of villagers have never attended school. Only about 10% of villagers can read some Tibetan. Some villagers studied Tibetan and mathematics for 4-6 years at the local primary school (grades 1-6). Very few of the older generation continued education beyond primary school because their families needed their children's assistance with farming and the middle school was located in the county town, 200 km away. Even today, only about 2-4 students annually, who complete the village primary school, continue their study in the middle school. Poverty prevents most students from leaving the village to obtain more education.

# **Receipts**



60,000RMB was spent for 60 tents bought in Xining 西宁 City, Qinghai 青海 Province from the Loldg'a 罗拉尕 Tent Company. Each tent costs 1,000RMB. The tents are guaranteed for five years.



1,800RMB was spent for transporting the tents from Xining City to Lianyi Tibetan Village.

## **PHOTOGRAPHS**



A new herding herding shelter.



After about 5 years a new herding shelter must be constructed.



After about 5 years a new herding shelter must be constructed.



### **Previous Page Photograph**

### (From R)

- A. Bkrishis Chos pel (b. 1970) is one of a family of six. He herds 40 goats, 28 cows, 5 yaks, and 20 sheep.
- B. sGroma (b. 1983) tends her family's livestock after her father died in a car accident.
- C. Lhamo (b. 1975).
- D. Metog's (b. 1967) husband got seriously ill 5 years ago and now she must do all the work of the family. She said "With this

- good quality tent, I won't have to suffer during windy and rainy days. Thank you for your help."
- E. Bkri chos, (b. 1965).
- F. Lhosang Chopel's (b. 1982) family has about 200 head of livestock. He had to quit school to help his father heard. He said "We had to build several shelters in different areas, which was very difficult. This tent has made our lives much easier."
- G. Bsod nam's (b. 1985) family has 39 head of livestock.
- H. Norbo's (b. 1968) family has 45 livestock.



(From R): A. Blorji (b. 1984) is the oldest oldest son in a family of seven. He herds 10 cows, 3 yaks, 35 goats, and 20 sheep.

- B. Stanba (b. 1940) is one of a family of 5. He has been herding for 37 years.
- C. Yishis Lhamtsho is one of a family of 3.
- D. Dwang sgron's (b. 1988) family has 90 head of livestock.



Nima (b. 1965) is the community leader and one of a family of 7. He herds 50 goats, 24 cows, 33 sheep, and 10 yaks.



### (From R)

- 1. Skalbza'a (b. 1950) is 1 of a family of 6. He herds 20 cows, 5 yaks, 20 goats, and 28 sheep.
- 2. Gyang mchun (b.1982) is 1 of a family of 10. Her family owns 23 cows, 7 yaks, 40 goats, and 30 sheep.
- 3. Chos sGron's (b. 1950) family has 56 head of livestock.



Bkranga's family (b. 1980) has 57 head of livestock. Her father herds them.



Chos pal's (b. 1966) family has 33 goats, 22 cows, 24 sheep, and 4 yaks.



Kaji (b. 1976) is one of a family of five.



Zhuoma chozo's (b. 1978) family has 50 head of livestock.



Chos tso's (b. 1979) family has 38 head of livestock.



Badma's (b. 1977) became ill 6 years ago and, since that time, she herds for her family.

# **Fingerprints**

(Contribution of 30 RMB from each family)

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